THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 15th July 1953.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras, at half-past nine of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION.

MR. SPEAKER :—" It is my painful duty to inform the House of the death of an ex-Minister Sri S. Muthia Mudaliar. The Leader. of the House will move the motion."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, I move—

> ' *That the House places on record its sense of sorrow at the demise of Sri S. Muthia Mudaliar who was a Member of this House and of Government in this State.*'

We should have done it yesterday itself, but we were disturbed by a number of proceedings."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" I beg to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Hon. the Chief Minister."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I know Mr. Muthia Mudaliar very well. He was a Minister here for some time and he took active part in social work, viz., ameliorative work for the Harijans. By way of passing the resolution, and as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, hon. Members will stand in their places for two minutes."

The resolution was carried *nem. con.* all the Members of the Assembly standing in their places for two minutes.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Allotment of rice to a merchant in Salem.

* 464-A *Q.*—SRI C. RAJAM RAMASAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 2,000 tons of broken rice have been preferentially allotted to a merchant in Salem and if so, the reasons for the same?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, but for the short-notice question by my hon. Friend, I myself wanted to make a statement on the floor of this Assembly refuting certain allegations made in a Tamil Weekly called ' Janayugam ' regarding an alleged issue of pemit to import broken rice. I am thankful to my hon. Friend for having given me this opportunity to clear the matter. I may straightaway say that the allegations made in that paper are totally incorrect and baseless. This Government merely forwarded the applications of two merchants of Salem, one to the Orissa Government in March last for the import of 500 tons of broken rice and the other to the Madhya Pradesh Government in

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May for the import of 2,000 tons of broken rice from that State. No other application had been received for such imports at that time. Under the instructions of the Government of India, it is not open to this Government to make any allotments of broken rice to merchants for import from other States. This Government cannot issue permits to merchants of this State to import broken rice from other States. It is for the exporting State to issue such permits. Actually the Madhya Pradesh Government refused to allow any quota to the Salem merchant. In spite of this, the paper has taken an imaginary purchase price, an imaginary selling price and arrived at an imaginary profit of Rs. 3¾ lakhs as likely to be made by the merchant. The very allotment of 2,000 tons of rice in this case is an imaginary one. Ordinarily some people have taken to sensation and scandal-mongering business to eke out their livelihood. I would have taken criminal prosecution against this paper, but I was afraid that I would thereby be assisting scandal-mongering which is the object of this paper."

Sri C. V. K. Rao :—" Sir, I do not know why the Hon. Minister is replying to something which is not contained in this question. I am afraid he is taking this opportunity to reply to some . . ."

Mr. Speaker :—" The hon. Member is making a statement. He should put it in the form of a question."

Sri C. V. K. Rao :—" He is not answering the question that has been put to him. But on the other hand he is taking this opportunity to enter into a controversy with some imaginary paper and some imaginary statement. Whether that is permissible or not, I would like to know, Sir."

Mr. Speaker :—" I have nothing to do with that."

Retrenchment of Madras Electric Tramway workers.

* 446 *Q.*—Sri M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether the Government propose to retrench 290 Madras Electric Tramway workers?

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Government is not concerned but the Company, which is a private one, applied to the Industrial Tribunal for retrenchment of 294 workers and has been permitted to retrench 132."

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that the management of the Company, in order to flout the decision of the Industrial Tribunal or circumvent the possible decision of the Industrial Tribunal has actually closed down the Tramway Company and is not the Government of Madras concerned with the convenience of nearly a million people of Madras City arising as a result of the closure of the Tramway Company? "